















BY APPOINTMENT.

## WATSON'S PYERIS.

REGISTERED

An exact reproduction of a well-known Spa at half the price.  
Blends perfectly with Spirits, especially Whisky.

"A little learning is a dangerous thing,  
Drink deep or touch not the Pyerian Spring.  
There shallow drafts intoxicate the Brain  
And drinking deeply sobers us again."—Pope.

Pints 90 Cts. Per Doz.  
Splits 60 " " "

A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LTD.,

AERATED WATER MANUFACTURERS.

## To-day's Advertisements

## MARATHON RACE.

OPEN to all SERVICES UNIFORMED COLLEGE, SCHOOLS and the PUBLIC generally.  
STATUE SQUARE (Law Courts) to SHAUHAIWAN BACK.  
Distance about 10 miles.

SATURDAY, April 13th, 1918.

Starting at 3 p.m.

Prizes according to number of Entries.  
Conditions—Go as you please. No stopping.  
Minimum clothing, singlet and shorts.  
Entrance fee One Dollar, to be sent with name and rank (if any) to—  
Staff Inspector J. C. WILSON,  
Hongkong Police Reserve Headquarters,  
Princess Buildings, Ice House Street.  
Entries close on Saturday, April 13th.  
Hongkong, March 23, 1918.

## SANTARY BOARD OFFICE,

HONGKONG.

## OWNERS OF DOMESTIC BUILDINGS.

TAKE NOTICE that under No. 3 of the DOMESTIC CLEANLINESS AND VENTILATION BY-LAWS (as amended), every Domestic Building or part of such Building within the WESTERN Division of the City of Victoria, occupied by Members of more than one family, except those within the European Reservation or those parts of a Domestic Building used as a Shop, Office or Godown, must be CLEANED and LIMEWASHED THROUGHOUT by the Owners, during the months of February and March.

N.B.—The word "throughout" used in this Notice means that the Houses should be lime-washed in respect of all the Walls of each Room, all Ceilings, Partitions, Stair Cases and Stair Linings, all Ceilings and the Underneath of Boats in Main Buildings, Offices and Servants' Quarters and inclusive of Verandahs.

The Backyard must have its containing Walls lime-washed up to the level of the First Floor.

Carpet, Painted or Polished Woodwork in good condition, however, need not be lime-washed, but must be Cleaned.

The WESTERN Division of the City lies to the West of Tank Lane and Cleverly Street.

G. M. W. REYNOLDS,

Secretary.

Dated this 23rd Day of March, 1918.

## PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction (for account of the concerned) on

## THURSDAY,

the 28th March, 1918, at 2.30 p.m., at No. 2B, Jordan Road, Top Flat, (off Nathan Road), Kowloon, (next Diocesan Girls' School),

## VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

As follows:—  
Stained Teak Dining Room Suite,  
Desk, Fender, etc., "Jacobean Style,"  
Cabinet Gramophone and Stand, and  
Music Cabinet, Special Artists Model,  
Water Colours and Prints by Yamamoto,  
(Artistically framed), Plate and Glass  
Ware, etc.

Bedroom Furniture (Famed teak).

Also

One KOREAN CABINET.  
A number of lots of Books comprising  
Works on Occult Subjects, Poems and  
Drama, Novels, Art-Magazines, &c.,  
New Tennis Racquet and Press, Electric  
Sittings, &c.

(Full Particulars from Catalogue).  
On view day of Sale.

Terms—Cash.

HUGHES &amp; HUGHES,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, Mar. 23, 1918.

## THIS WEEK'S

## OVERLAND CHINA MAIL.

THE WEEKLY EDITION OF THE

CHINA MAIL.

CONTAINS ALL THE NEWS

OF THE WEEK.

THE WEEK'S REPORTS OF THE

TRAGEDY INQUIRY.

PRIOR 35 Cts. (cash) per Copy.

## The China Mail.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MAR. 23, 1918.

## THE SUPREME EFFORT.

HINDENBURG talked a couple of months ago of being in Paris by April 1st, but as the great German offensive, which was expected to begin in February, has only just started, it is probable that HINDENBURG has at least changed the date, if indeed the experience of the "testing operations" along the whole front during the past few weeks has not caused him to doubt whether he really is not as little of a prophet as the KAISER who it may be recalled counted upon eating his Christmas dinner in Paris in 1914. The great attack by which Germany hopes to achieve victory in the war has at last been launched on a scale not hitherto attempted in the whole course of the war. Germany, through the collapse of Russia, has been able to enormously strengthen her position on the Western Front, by men and material, and for the first time, she has the help on this front of the Austro-Hungarians. No doubt the enemy hoped to surprise the Allies by striking where the great attack has been launched; and it is highly satisfactory to learn that the Allied Military authorities have not only been expecting the commencement of the enemy offensive at any moment during the past three days, but that they also expected that it would be launched in the sector that the Germans have chosen. The confidence expressed by Mr. BONAR LAW when announcing in the House of Commons that the attack had commenced is cheering. All past evidence had indicated that the offensive would be conducted upon principles of surprise. The winter training of the enemy Divisions has been based upon the idea of repeating the tactics which succeeded in Galicia, Riga and on the Isonzo. We have also been told by the Press Correspondents that the enemy's training exercises have been based upon the principle of the infantry breaking through without artillery preparation and this was taken as confirming the idea that the Germans would employ Tanks. We were further told that the enemy was expecting great results from a new poison gas and that the British knew that he intended using gas shells very freely. If in face of this information to-day's telegrams reveal anything at all in the nature of surprise, it is that resort was made to the "preliminary bombardment." When the enemy broke through on the Italian front they did so while a heavy bombardment was in progress along the whole line except in the one sector where they had chosen to make the attack. The enemy doubtless felt that this was a strategy that there was no hope of successfully repeating on the Western front. We have entered upon the most critical phase of the war, and the progress of the great battle which has just begun, and is likely to be of long duration, will be watched with no little anxiety by the peoples of every belligerent country. Mr. BONAR LAW in a recent speech when referring to the confidence of the British Commanders at the Front in their superiority remarked: "That does not mean that if an attack were made there would be no loss of territory. Any side choosing to con-

centrate sufficiently upon a narrow front could carry it. That might happen, if an attack occurs, but if it does happen, I am confident its true significance will be realised by the British people as well as the soldiers, whose one desire will be to recover lost ground." Now that the attack has actually commenced these few words of advice might be usefully borne in mind.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Athletes will be interested in the advertisement in another column of a Marathon race which is being organised under the auspices of the Hongkong Police Reserve.

A Chinese reported to the Police that whilst he was on the way to a money changer to change a \$50 bank note yesterday, two men attacked him and robbed him of the money.

It is officially notified that the Commandant has appointed Acting Lieutenant E. T. Johns, R.N.R., to be Officer in charge of the Examination Service, vice Lieutenant F. McWay, R.N.

Large crowds of Chinese assembled in the streets this afternoon to witness the transfer to the Tung Wa mortuary of the remains of Mrs. Choy, a very wealthy resident who lost her life in the tragedy at the Race-course.

A rickshaw coolie was fined \$1 by Mr. Wood this morning for attempting to export fifty silver dollars without a permit. The money was ordered to be confiscated. The coolie said the money had been given to him by friends to take to Swatow.

About twenty minutes to one this morning, fire broke out at No. 5 Hollywood Road, the ground floor of which was a printer's shop. A great deal of paper was stored in the basement of the ground floor and it is believed that the fire originated there. The floor was practically gutted and the damage done is estimated at \$8,500. There was no insurance on the property.

The Concert arranged by Prof. E. Danenberg for the benefit of the Orphans of the Portuguese victims who perished in the Race Course Disaster will take place on Monday, at 5.15 p.m. in the St. Andrew's Hall, City Hall. H. E. the Governor will be present. Mrs. Bulean, Mrs. Stevens, Mr. Marjell, Prof. Danenberg and his pupils will take part. Prof. Papini, Mr. Parnes and Prof. Danenberg will play a trio by Beethoven for Piano, violin and cello.

With reference to the recent announcement of the Cinema performances for the Troops and their friends at the Royal Artillery Theatre, it should have been stated that "The Fatal Ring" is being presented by the kind permission of the Management of the Victoria Theatre. A highly successful entertainment was given on Thursday evening, and similar shows will be presented on Wednesday and Saturday evenings at 8 o'clock from March 27th onwards, the "Fatal Ring" being screened on Wednesdays.

## THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

## MR. T. L. PERKINS APPOINTED FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.

It is announced in the Government Gazette that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint, under instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Thomas Luff Perkins to be First Assistant Director of Public Works, vice Mr. Alec Fleming Churchill, retired on pension, with effect from the 21st February, 1918.

## THE EPIDEMIC.

Eight cases of cerebro-spinal fever were reported to the Medical Officer of Health yesterday. There were eight deaths from the disease.

## BEST MEDICINE MADE.

A better medicine cannot be made than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It relieves the lungs, opens the airways, aids expectoration and assists nature in restoring the system to healthy condition. Besides, it contains no opiates and is perfectly safe to take. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

## RACE COURSE TRAGEDY INQUIRY.

## TWELFTH DAY.

When the Court of Inquiry resumed this morning, the Coroner said that the jury was satisfied that the weight of evidence to the present was in favour of the suggestion that the fire broke out after the collapse, and they were not anxious to hear any further evidence to confirm this. They were also satisfied that the fire broke out 20 seconds to a minute after the collapse. Further evidence tended to show that the fire broke out in the lower shed at a point between sheds 8, 9 and 10 and any evidence confirming this would not be of any use. With reference to the sittings, the jury would sit on Monday next at 2.15 p.m. instead of 11 o'clock in the morning, as it was not convenient to them, and that sittings might possibly continue till after 5 p.m. On other days the jury would sit at 11 a.m. as usual and continue during the afternoon until after Thursday when the sittings would be adjourned until the following Tuesday.

The subject of the lecture, "Peking: its Temples and Palaces," was illustrated by beautiful lantern slides which added further interest to the lecture.

Sir Charles said the series of views of Peking he proposed to show them were based on a collection of photographs taken by a Japanese Commission which was sent there during the occupation of Peking by the European Powers and Japan in 1900. The object of the collection was to bring out the beautiful points of Chinese architecture and hence most of the views were taken of temples and palaces; views of places such as the Legation Quarter, etc. which might be of interest from other points of view were unfortunately not taken.

## THE FIRE BRIGADE EVIDENCE.

The Hon. Mr. C. McI. Messer, Captain Superintendent of Police and also Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, giving evidence, said that no fire precautions had ever been taken for the Race Course matches. There were no regulations regarding the precautions of fire in matches except in the case of theatrical performances. He produced permits issued for Chinese theatres. Certain fire precautions were enforced by him under the regulations. As far as he knew the form of permit issued for temporary buildings provided for the enforcement of precautions against fire. Except by cutting a gap it was impossible to extinguish fire in matches except in its initial stages. It was the duty of the Fire Brigade in extinguishing the fire, to protect the adjoining buildings and to protect life and property. The general rule in the case of theatrical matches is, in addition to having buckets of water for a "despatch" to be sent in charge of Chinese firemen, who were to be on continuous duty day and night at the expense of the lessees. This was sometimes done for theatrical performances in permanent buildings. The Fire Brigade did not always attend. The Tai Ping theatre and the City Hall have their own arrangements and it was the custom of the Fire Brigade to supplement these arrangements. The Fire Brigade also attended the Fair on Murray Parade ground on Heather Day when the performances were continued at night. It was only where fire precautions were compelled by law that he insisted in the absence of other provisions, to use being made of the Fire Brigade. The use of the Fire Brigade would not be to the best interest, as a number of firemen would be withdrawn from the Central Station.

By the Crown Solicitor.—The question of providing precautions against fire had never been considered. The desire of a permanent shed would be referred to him by the Building Authorities for a statement of fire appliances required. He had advised with regard to the precautions at the Fair on Heather Day. Witness first heard of the collapse at the Peak, between 3.06 and 3.10 p.m. by a telephonic message from the Central Police Station. He ascertained that the Fire Brigade had already gone down to the Race Course and that a fire had broken out. When he reached the Race Course he found the fire engines already there. Witness detailed to the Court the position of the different hydrants, hose, etc. Continuing witness said there was not sufficient pressure of water in any of the hydrants for any practical use, and even the water in the fire tank was insufficient to form one hose. About 3.30 p.m. the sheds were almost burnt up and there was no chance whatever of saving a single life. Before the Fire-fight arrived there had only one third of a mile of hose to lay out. When the fire-fight arrived water was pumped from the harbour. When the fire was out witness instructed that the bodies should be taken from the wreckage and laid out in a row. A cord was made around the fire and remained there until the evening of the next day. A great number, about 50% of the bodies were found in a crouching position and they gave him the impression that they had been squashed in that position. The greatest number of bodies were found near sheds 8 and 9 and another heap of about 25 was found in front of shed No. 7. Of large heap of bodies, witness said it looked as if the people had been shot down a chute.

The following day, witness accompanied by Lieut. Colonel Ward and Inspector Watt counted 570 bodies. The Sanitary Board Department, especially the coolies, gave great assistance. The Golf Club was still burning the next day, and when a hose was turned on it there was sufficient pressure on one hose to play on any fire. The inquiry was adjourned until next Monday afternoon.

## BILLIARDS.

The second semi-final of the Hongkong Billiard Championship, in which Wong To Hong meets E. Gray, will be played to-night at the Victoria Recreation Club, at 8 p.m.

The winner of this match will meet Gunner Lord next Saturday, to decide who shall play Edgmont Pitt for the Championship.

## PEKING: ITS TEMPLES AND PALACES.

## ILLUSTRATED LECTURE BY SIR CHARLES ELIOT.

A very interesting lecture was delivered by Sir Charles Eliot at the Helena May Institute last night, before a gathering of appreciative listeners. His Excellency the Governor presided, and amongst those present were the Hon. Mr. Claud Severn, C.M.G., the Hon. Mr. Pollock, K.C., The Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., O.B.E., the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, Mr. G. E. Anderson, American Consul-General, Mr. A. Harris, Mr. C. G. Alabaster, O.B.E. and Mr. Ralph.

The subject of the lecture, "Peking: its Temples and Palaces," was illustrated by beautiful lantern slides which added further interest to the lecture.

Sir Charles said the series of views of Peking he proposed to show them were based on a collection of photographs taken by a Japanese Commission which was sent there during the occupation of Peking by the European Powers and Japan in 1900. The object of the collection was to bring out the beautiful points of Chinese architecture and hence most of the views were taken of temples and palaces; views of places such as the Legation Quarter, etc. which might be of interest from other points of view were unfortunately not taken. During the course of the lecture in which many fine views of the Forbidden City were screened, the lecturer reviewed the conditions of Peking under the different dynasties. Reference was made to Marco Polo and Father Alvarez who had left them some fine descriptions of the buildings at that period. Very few of the buildings of the present period were of much antiquity, though for a long time there had been a city more or less on the present site. The first was said to have been built as early as 700 B.C. to the north of the present city, but later on as the Government changed hands, more and more cities were added to the south side. The first of these cities was called "Yen," a name which is still used in Chinese literature to the designate Capital. Referring to a Chinese bronze lion, the lecturer said it was not surprising that the statue should be so different from the real animal as the Chinese had no conception whatever of the lion. In the memory of the human race lions never existed in China. Some interesting views were those of the Temple of Heaven, the hall where the diplomatic body was first received by the Chinese Emperor, and the Buddhist temples. Other fine views were those of the palaces in the Middle City; peculiar stairways, exquisitely carved, and the summer palace in a lovely covered lake. Concluding, the lecturer said he hoped the audience had found something interesting in the Chinese architecture. As for himself he admired it very much and regretted that they should have been left to decay by the Chinese of the present day. It was unfortunate that the Chinese thought that anyone offering sacrifices in the Temple of Heaven was equivalent to claiming to be the Emperor of China, so that no Chinese President attempted to use it. He hoped, however, that it would not be used, they would at least preserve the buildings in good condition as memorial of a high style of religious architecture.

In proposing a vote of thanks, H. E. the Governor said they were fortunate indeed to have had a view of the unique photographs which Sir Charles Eliot had been so good to show them. Many of them perhaps had, like himself, lived outside the walls of the Forbidden City and had longed to get in and see what was inside. He recollected an escapade of his in his student days, about 35 years ago, when he and a fellow student conceived a plan to get into the city by a stratagem. Fortunately for him their intentions were discovered by the British Minister who made them promise not to carry out their plan, and up to the present day he had never been able to get a sight of the Forbidden City. But now they had a very good idea of what the City looked like. The architecture shown them was of great beauty and he wished they had some of it here in Hongkong. In thanking Sir Charles Eliot for his excellent photographs and the very interesting lecture, he would also mention Mr. Warren of the University who had taken so much time in the reproduction of the photos. (Cheers.)

## HUB IT IN.

A good many people think rheumatism cannot be cured without taking powerful medicine, Chamberlain's Pain-Expeller, however, thoroughly cures the pain and cures the rheumatism in many cases. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

## COMPANY MEETING.

## THE GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO. LIMITED.

The twenty-ninth ordinary annual meeting of the above Company was held this morning at the offices of the Company, at 11.30 a.m.

The Hon. Mr. D. LANDALE presided, and there were present the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., the Rev. Father Robert and Mr. A. O. Tang (Directors), Mr. R. Henderson (Secretary) and Dr. J. H. Sanders and Messrs R. G. Shewan, R. Hancock, H. F. Campbell, J. K. Gibson, M. A. Figueiredo, Tse Tsan Tai and Chan Siu Ki.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, as the Report and Accounts have been in your hands for some days, I will now, with your permission, take them as read.

The result of the year's work is not so good as that of the previous twelve months; the gross profit for the year being \$495,255.61 against a profit last year of \$610,150. Review of the large amount—\$150,000—transferred to Reserve Account last year, your Directors consider that it is only necessary to transfer \$35,000 to that account this year which will then stand at \$200,000 and they feel justified in recommending the payment of the same dividend as last year, which will cost \$320,000. We propose to write \$15,000 off "Deepwater Bay Buildings and Machinery" in addition to the usual depreciation and we also propose to pay a bonus to the Staff of \$14,384.33 of which I am sure you will approve. I think, on the whole, the shareholders have reason to be satisfied with the position.

You will remember that in accordance with Resolutions passed at a meeting of shareholders held on the 15th December 1916 and 15th March 1917, the capital of the Company has been reduced from \$4,000,000 to \$3,000,000 by a cash payment to shareholders of \$1,000,000. It has been necessary to provide a sum of \$21,363.37 from this year's working account in order to write down the dollar value of our investment in 5 per cent. war loan to the equivalent of 3/4 exchange. Amongst the many difficulties the management have had to contend with, I would mention the enormous price of coal. This is the largest item of our prime cost and we are now paying \$32 per ton for coal for which we paid \$20 last year and \$10 the year before. A high rate of exchange has, of course, added to our difficulties, but our greatest trouble of all has been to secure transportation for our cargo when we have sold it. Not only have rates of freight been constantly increased, but so much tonnage has been withdrawn that it has been extremely difficult to secure the necessary freight space on any terms. The natural consequence has been higher prices for our Cement and a falling off in sales, a state of things which we cannot hope will improve while the War lasts. As regards the supply of our raw materials, Tonkin has still been our mainstay. Stone has, however, come forward in rather better supply from Kwangtung and but for the unsettled state of the country we should no doubt have received considerably larger quantities. As you will remember, we voted \$5,000 to Hongkong War Charities last year and we propose to pay the same amount this year. I am quite sure that in doing so we have the approval of every shareholder present (Applause).

The CHAIRMAN proposed and the Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER seconded, the adoption of the Report and accounts and the motion was carried.

Mr. R. HANCOCK proposed, and Dr. SANDERS seconded, the election to the Board of the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., and the Hon. Mr. D. Landale, and the motion was carried.

Mr. H. F. CAMPBELL proposed and Mr. CHAU SIU KI seconded, the re-election as auditors for the ensuing year of Mr. F. Maitland and Mr. A. R. Love, at a remuneration of \$500 each, and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN then announced that Dividend Warrants would be ready on Monday and the meeting terminated.

## ALLIED OFFICERS AT KIEFF REQUESTED TO LEAVE.

AMSTERDAM, Mar. 22.  
The Ukrainian Minister of the Interior has requested the British, French and Belgian officers at Kieff to leave.

## AERIAL POST BETWEEN KIEFF AND VIENNA.

AMSTERDAM, Mar. 22.  
An official message from Ukraine states that an aerial post between Vienna and Kieff has been inaugurated.

## LOWER DANUBE FREE OF MINES.

AMSTERDAM, Mar. 22.  
A telegram from Vienna states that the lower Danube is free of mines, as far as Sulin, consequently, the water route to Ukraine is navigable.

## TROUBLE AVERTED.

THAT little cold and sore throat of yours must be checked at once or it may develop into something worse. Take a few doses of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and your troubles will soon vanish. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

## TELEGRAMS.

## PRINCE LICHNOWSKY'S MEMORANDUM.

## HISTORICALLY VALUELESS.

AMSTERDAM, Mar. 21.  
Herr von Payer concluded his speech on Prince Lichnowsky's Memorandum, in the Reichstag by saying:—

"Nobody will reproach Prince Lichnowsky on account of his belief in himself. He is free to make notes about events and his attitude thereto, but should have considered it a duty that his views should not become known to the public, and no matter how small his circle of readers, it was his duty to state nothing contradicting facts which he knew. As things now are, the Memorandum will cause enough harm amongst malevolent and superficial people. The Memorandum is absolutely valueless historically."

Herr von Payer next referred to a duplicate copy of a letter from Doctor Muehlton, who is now in Switzerland, and who was a member of Krupp's Directorate at the outbreak of war.

Herr von Payer said that Dr. Muehlton's letter referred to utterances of two highly placed gentlemen from which Dr. Muehlton concluded that the German Government in July 1914, lacked a desire for peace. Both these gentlemen had stated in writing that Dr. Muehlton suffered from nerves and he (von Payer) also considered Dr. Muehlton's statements to be those of a diseased mind.

After a brief discussion, Herr von Payer said that the Imperial Department of Justice had considered the question of taking criminal or disciplinary action against Prince Lichnowsky, with the result that, on various legal grounds it was found that the prosecution of Prince Lichnowsky for diplomatic high treason would not have been successful. There was no longer a question of disciplinary proceedings after Prince Lichnowsky had retired, and the Foreign Office had prohibited the Princes from publishing articles in the Press.

Dr. Stamm, the Foreign Under Secretary, said the Kaiser, in agreement with the Chancellor, appointed Prince Lichnowsky to the Ambassadorship in London, and Prince Lichnowsky had been zealous in his duties while in London, though his strong optimism with reference to the German relations with England did not agree with the views of the German Foreign Office. When Prince Lichnowsky's hopes of an understanding between Germany and England were destroyed by the war, Prince Lichnowsky returned to Germany, greatly excited and even then did not restrain his criticism of the German policy. This excitement increased owing to the German Press attacks against him, and this must be taken into consideration when judging the Memorandum.

Replying to criticisms on the meagreness of the German White Book, Dr. Stamm said it had to be compiled quickly so as to present to the Reichstag a clear picture of the question as to the guilt for the outbreak of war. He agreed that the Blue Book of other States were more voluminous but the German White Book contained no falsification.

Dr. Stamm concluded by announcing that a new edition of the German White Book was now being prepared.

## THE "VORWAERTS" COMMENT.

AMSTERDAM, Mar. 21.  
The Vorwaerts states that Prince Lichnowsky's brilliant testimony regarding the policy of the English may help to teach Germans to again think more calmly and more open-mindedly about England.

## EXORBITANT LEGAL EXPENSES.

## INDIAN OFFICER'S WIDOW MULKED.

LONDON, Mar. 20.  
In the House of Commons Mr. G. W. Currie, Unionist Member for Leith, affirmed that an officer's widow was charged over £50 for official expenses in Madras for the completion of her title to £400 worth of shares in the Madras Rupee Company.

The Rt. Hon. Andrew Fisher replied that if Mr. Currie could give the officer's name, inquiry would be made.

## A LIFE SAVER.

IT is said to say that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has saved the lives of more people and relieved more suffering than any other remedy in existence. It is known all over the world for its speedy cure of croup, whooping cough, diphtheria, and all throat and chest troubles. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.



## THE GREAT OFFENSIVE.

## ENEMY'S LOSSES EXCEEDINGLY HEAVY.

(Continued from Page 1.)

## SIR DOUGLAS HAIG'S REPORTS.

## POWERFUL ATTACK ON 50-MILE FRONT.

## ENEMY OBJECTIVES UNATTAINED.

London, Mar. 22. Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—

About eight o'clock this morning, after an intense bombardment of gas-shells and high explosives on the forward positions and back areas, the enemy launched a powerful infantry attack on a front of over 50 miles, between the river Oise, near La Fère and the river Senne, near Croisilles. There was hostile artillery activity on a wide front, northward of the La Bassée Canal and on the Ypres sector where it has been known for some time past, an attack was being prepared.

The enemy pressed the attack with the greatest vigour and determination. On the day long and broke through outpost positions and penetrated battle positions in certain parts.

The enemy attacked in masses and his losses were exceptionally heavy. Severe fighting continued on the whole front.

Large numbers of reinforcements were observed, advancing behind the enemy's lines and several Divisions, which have been specially trained for this great attack, were identified, including the Prussian Guards.

Maps captured, depicting the enemy's intentions, show that he has not attained his objectives on any part of the front.

## ENEMY'S EXCEEDINGLY HEAVY LOSSES.

Field-Marshal Haig, in a further message, says:—

Fighting continued last night along the whole front from the river Oise to the river Senne.

Our troops continue to hold the enemy in their battle positions.

During yesterday's attacks the enemy's massed infantry offered remarkable targets to rifles, machine-guns and artillery of which we took full advantage.

All reports testify to the enemy's exceedingly heavy losses.

No serious attack has yet developed this morning, but heavy fighting must still be expected.

## PRESS CORRESPONDENTS' REPORTS.

## ENGAGEMENT GENERAL ON 25-MILE FRONT.

London, Mar. 22. Mr. Hamilton Pyffe, the War Correspondent, telegraphing from France, says the Germans had assembled an enormous number of guns for the preliminary bombardment, but this was not of long duration. It began at five o'clock in the morning, and at seven o'clock some German units had already left their trenches and attacked with heavy and light machine-guns. The engagement became general between nine and ten o'clock on a front of 25 miles.

The right of the German attack was aimed at Croisilles, Bullecourt and Lamécourt, while the left wing pushed in the direction of Bèze and Hargicourt. Everywhere, the enemy suffered severely.

The fighting in the afternoon, developed into hard local struggles for points of vantage, such as a brickfield near Croisilles and ruined farm houses and canal locks, but at present it is useless to attempt to give details. One thing that is clear is that the enemy, for the first time in two years, has begun an attempt to break through.

Mr. Percival Phillips, another Press Correspondent in France, writes: The German Army south of the Scarpe seems to have delivered its first blow principally in the triangle of Arras-Cambrai and the Bapaume-Cambrai roads, while the Army south of Cambrai is striking against our trench systems in the region west of the Scheldt Canal. The enemy doubtless hopes to effect

a junction of both armies, cut off a considerable slice of the British front, and recover all the Hindenburg trenches lost four months ago.

Mr. Philip Gibbs, another Press Correspondent in France, says: At the moment there are only scraps of news, unconfirmed rumours and vague things of men hard-pressed, but holding out against repeated onslaughts. Words miss before it is clear how much the enemy has gained or failed to gain by his first blow. Our troops are fighting not merely for their own lives but for the fate of England and all our race. To-day's battle is not bluff, but apparently the real thing in all its brutal force. One thing certain is the supreme valour of our men whatever may happen.

## VIEWS OF THE EXPERTS.

The battlefield of Cambrai is the scene of the opening of the great German offensive which the enemy has been endeavouring to mask by subsidiary attacks at several points, namely, the Belgian sector, Rheims, Champagne and Verdun, without deceiving Field-Marshal Haig who was thoroughly prepared to meet the main onslaught when launched yesterday on the British right between the rivers Scarpe and Oise in the neighbourhood of St. Quentin. The probable object of the Germans is to drive a wedge between the British and the French and advance to Paris by the valley of the Oise simultaneously turning the whole French Left.

Experts anticipate that the enemy's tremendous rush is to gain ground at certain points and that he will strike hard in other sectors in order to pin down the Anglo-French reserves and endeavour to find a weak point in the line; but every confidence is felt in the ability of the British troops to singularly repulse the enemy. In view of the certainty that the advance will be finally checked, after preliminary gains, experts in London find the German action in putting everything to hazard inexplicable, unless on the ground that the situation in Germany is more serious than has been supposed, and her rulers driven to a desperate venture.

## THE FRENCH FRONT.

## VIOLENT ARTILLERY ACTIVITY ON FRENCH SECTORS.

London, Mar. 21.

A French communiqué states:— Towards the end of the night, there was an intense and prolonged bombardment on the sectors north and south-east of Rheims and also at various points in Champagne, where the Germans made several abortive attempts.

The enemy bombardment on the right of the Meuse became very violent yesterday evening, a strong attack following, between Caupré, Wood and Betonvaux. After violent hand-to-hand fighting, we drove back the enemy from some points where, in the first rush, he had succeeded in penetrating. We took some prisoners. After lively artillery activity, the enemy attacked, at 1.30 this morning, in the region of Montigny, in Lorraine. Our fire repulsed him, with serious losses; the attack being resultless.

## HEAVY ATTACKS ON FRENCH FRONT.

London, Mar. 22.

A French communiqué states:— During the day reciprocal artillery activity was very violent between Miette and the Aisne, the region of Rheims, the heights of Champagne and Ville-en-Tourbe.

Three successive attacks in the Hurlus sector broke down under our fire or were thrown back by counter-attacks.

Raiding attempts east of Suippe were completely defeated. Our artillery caught and dispersed some German columns which were advancing south of the mouth of the Oise.

On the right of the Meuse and some points in Woëvre the enemy intensely bombarded our first lines.

## BELGIANS BOMBARDED WITH POISON GAS.

London, Mar. 22.

A Berlin communiqué states:— There was lively artillery activity yesterday. During a Naval engagement last night off Dunkirk, enemy vessels bombarded our coast towards Lapanne.

There was a violent bombardment with poison gas-shells against our batteries on the whole front. It lasted throughout to-day.

## DESTROYER ACTIONS.

## FOUR OR FIVE ENEMY SHIPS SUNK.

## NO ALLIED SHIPS LOST.

London, Mar. 21.

An Admiralty communiqué states:— Two British and three French destroyers off Dunkirk, between four and five o'clock this morning, engaged German destroyers which had previously bombarded the town for ten minutes.

Two enemy destroyers and two torpedo boats are believed to have been sunk. Survivors of two torpedo boats were picked.

No Allied vessels were sunk. A British destroyer was damaged but reached harbour.

The British casualties were slight. There were no French casualties.

## FRENCH OFFICIAL REPORT.

London, Mar. 22.

A French official communiqué states:—

A division of French and British destroyers fought a detachment of German torpedo boats in the North Sea between 4 and 5 o'clock this morning, sinking two.

Shortly afterwards the same division fought a second action with five large destroyers which had previously bombarded Dunkirk. One German destroyer was sunk, and two others probably lost.

We captured some prisoners.

It appears that three flotillas were ordered to bombard Dunkirk, Lapanne and Bruyères.

## BRITISH MONITORS BOMBARD OSTEAD.

London, Mar. 22.

The Admiralty announces:— British monitors successfully bombarded Ostend this afternoon.

A naval air squadron destroyed five enemy aircraft.

British seaplanes reconnoitring in the Heligoland Bight, machine-gunned mine-sweepers.

There were no British casualties. All our aeroplanes returned.

## THE OPERATIONS IN PALESTINE.

## FURTHER POINTS OCCUPIED.

London, Mar. 21.

An official message from Palestine states:—

We consolidated and improved our positions and occupied El Mussallabas and the high ground to the east, and three miles to the north of the Wadi Uja, and also Beirima and Keirut, near Bearballut.

The Australian flying corps dropped 470 bombs on El Kutani station and on trains. Direct hits were obtained.

## THE OPERATIONS IN EAST AFRICA.

## FRESH COLUMN ADVANCES INLAND.

London, Mar. 21.

An official message from East Africa states:—

We have made contact with a strong enemy force in the Medobina coastal area.

A fresh column, disembarking at Mosambique, has occupied Nampula, which is 110 miles inland.

## BRITISH AND GERMAN BOMBING.

London, Mar. 22.

A Press-Bureau communiqué says:—Excluding raids in Germany, the British and Australian airmen on the West Front in February dropped 5,200 bombs in the day time and 8,352 in night time. The enemy dropped 28 in the day time; in the area occupied by the British and 1,768 in the night time.

## HUGE GERMAN WAR EXPENDITURE.

Amsterdam, Mar. 21.

In the Reichstag, the Financial Secretary stated that Germany's monthly war costs were now £187,600,000.

## THE DUTCH SHIPPING.

## STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, Mar. 21.

In the House of Commons, Lord Robert Cecil, in a statement regarding the Dutch shipping, said the Allies deeply regretted that any Government should have appeared to assist the objects of German submarine warfare by not making the fullest use of its shipping. The Allies had been endeavouring for months past by negotiation and agreement to induce every country to use its shipping to the fullest extent. Referring to the abortive negotiations with Holland cabled on March 14th, Lord Cecil said one of the Dutch conditions then was that the ships should not enter the danger zone.

he Allies, however, recognised that even if an agreement including that condition were accepted, Germany could have rendered its negatory by extending the danger zone. After mentioning the Allies' liberal conditions cabled on the 14th inst. and outlined in President Wilson's proclamation, he stated that another Dutch condition was that ships should not carry war material. As almost everything at present was war material this condition also was not acceptable. Therefore the Allies felt the only course was to exercise their unquestionable right of requisitioning the use of the Dutch ships under the right of Angary. He emphasised that Great Britain was most anxious to act most carefully and in the least obnoxious way.

The repatriation of the Dutch crews, who would be treated with the utmost courtesy and consideration, had been provided for.

Lord Cecil confirmed that the Dutch ships henceforth leaving Dutch ports would not be brought into the Allied service except by agreement. The Allies had underpiled with 50,000 tons of wheat or flour in a North American port as soon as possible, and a similar quantity in a South American port. He hoped Holland would immediately send ships for it. The Allies were anxious to meet Holland in every way. There were approximately 450,000 tons of Dutch shipping in American ports and 350,000 in other ports.

## PUBLIC OPINION.

LATER. All comment on the taking over of the Dutch shipping emphasises that apart from the fact that Holland will not lose by it, the Allies by their action have relieved the Dutch Government from making what would have been a most difficult decision. The Dutch Government probably is very thankful for this because Germany cannot now accuse Holland of acquiescing.

## THE SHIPPING POSITION.

## AN ADMIRALTY SUMMARY.

London, Mar. 22.

The Admiralty statement summarises as follows the shipping position to the end of last year:

By British Foreign. Losses (tons) 7,075,000 4,750,000 Gains (new construction) 3,031,000 3,500,000 Enemy tonnage captured 780,000 1,800,000 Total gains 3,800,000 5,343,000

## PUBLIC OPINION.

The Times says:—Sir Eric Geddes' statement had a mixed reception in the House of Commons and will make a mixed impression outside. The summary of the sale of British losses is not reassuring. The greatest hiatus in the statement is Sir Eric Geddes' silence on the conditions in the shipyards.

The Daily News says:—Public anxiety will not be alleviated by the figures which did little to enlighten the position. If the situation is to be redeemed a thousand men from the Army whom the shipbuilders demobilised in October must return to the shipyards.

The Daily Express says the story told by Sir Eric Geddes is not pleasant and is not improved by the plain demonstration that shipbuilding has lacked a strong guiding expert hand. Lord Pirrie should be made the autocrat of the shipyards.

The Daily Mail says the facts are serious enough, but it faced in the right spirit they need not be considered as a disaster. We have been more successful in destroying submarines, but we have lost ground badly in replacing lost ships. Lord Pirrie's appointment is a welcome change.

## TREATMENT OF BRITISH WAR PRISONERS.

## REDRESS TO BE DEMANDED.

London, Mar. 22.

In the House of Commons Mr. J. F. Hope, Secretary to the Treasury, stated that the Government was determined to secure redress for British war prisoners who had been improperly treated. He also stated that it had been thought desirable to transfer a number of German officers from the West of England to the East Coast. This was not a reprisal or a punishment, and the climate of the Kent and Essex coasts was probably better than that of a number of the prison camps in Germany.—(Cheers).

## THE PRISONERS OF WAR.

## THE ANGLO-TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS.

London, Mar. 21.

In the House of Commons, replying to Sir R. A. Cooper Mr. G. F. Hope said it had been found impracticable to arrange for the internment in a neutral country of British and Turkish prisoners of war owing to lack of accommodation in any available neutral country, and the difficulties of transporting a large number of Turks thereto from Egypt, India and Burma.

In reply to Mr. Feto, Mr. Hope said an agreement for reciprocal repatriation of British and Turkish prisoners was made on the grounds of health, not on length of captivity. It had been signed and was awaiting ratification by Turkey. Replying to Mr. Gershom Stewart, Mr. Hope said a lot of recent information from repatriated prisoners respecting the Turkish internment camps showed that conditions were not more unfavourable than was expected. There was a slight tendency towards better treatment of prisoners in Turkey, but her difficulties were growing owing to the increasing scarcity and dearth of provisions and the depreciation of the Turkish paper currency.

## THE NATIONAL MINERS' BALLOT.

## NEARLY 30,000 MAJORITY AGAINST "COMBOUT."

London, Mar. 21.

The National Miners' Ballot resulted in a majority of 28,756 votes against combining 50,000 miners for the Army, as demanded by the Government.

## THE PREMIER'S REPLY.

London, Mar. 22.

Mr. Lloyd George, yesterday, told the Executive of the Miners' Federation who presented the figures of the ballot on the subject of combining out, that the men required would be recruited for the Army.

## THE NEW RUMANIAN CABINET.

## COMPOSED OF INSIGNIFICANT POLITICIANS.

Jassy, Mar. 22.

The Marghiloman Cabinet has been formed. It consists of insignificant politicians, and includes only one ex-Minister.

It is expected that peace negotiations will immediately be resumed.

## THE SPANISH MINISTRY.

## ANOTHER REFUSAL TO FORM A CABINET.

Madrid, Mar. 21.

Senor Mañra has been instructed to form a Cabinet.

Senor Mañra refused to form a Cabinet as Senor La Cierva insisted upon remaining in the War Ministry, to which Senor Mañra would not agree.

## INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS.

London, Mar. 20.

In the House of Commons, replying to Mr. Gledhill, the Rt. Hon. Andrew Fisher stated that arrangements would be announced in India shortly for putting into effect the provisions of the Royal Warrant of December 12, 1917, including the extension of the period for electing to take pensions on completion of 22 years' service.

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TICKETS obtainable at Banks, Clubs and Leading Stores.

## IDLE ENEMY STEAMERS IN THE FAR EAST.

London, Mar. 20.

In the House of Commons Mr. C. Bellairs, Unionist Member for Maidstone, complained that the large enemy steamers, the *Drachenfels* and the *Prinz Ferdinand*, in the Far East, were used as stationary hulks for thirty months, although the vessels were in perfect condition. The Rt. Hon. Andrew Fisher replied that he had no information in this connection and enquiries would be made from the Raj, as possibly the vessels were under the control of the Director of Indian Marine.

(Continued on page 5.)



## SHIPPING

**C. N. C.**  
**CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LD.**

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.			
FOR	SEALINE	TO SAIL	
NIENHSIN	KUANGSOW	Mar. 28, at Noon.	
AMOI & SHANGHAI	SUNGANG	Mar. 28, at 10 a.m.	
SHANGHAI	SUNGANG	Mar. 28, at 3 p.m.	

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LD.

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(SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

For	Steamers	To Sail
TIENTSIN	CHIPSING	SUNDAY, Mar. 24, Daylight
HAIPHONG	TAKEJANG	FRIDAY, Mar. 29, at 7 a.m.
MANILA	YUEJSANG	FRIDAY, Mar. 29, at 3 p.m.
MANILA	LOONGSANG	FRIDAY, Apr. 5, at 3 p.m.

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HAIHONG ...	Capt. J. W. Evans.....	THURSDAY, 4th April at 12 Noon.

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THE TWO HANDS.

A MIRACLE OF SURGERY.

[By HAROLD BROSSE in the "DAILY CHRONICLE"]

"Major Gillies is operating now; perhaps you would like to see?"  
Well, I will try to see.  
But first of all, give me leave to reflect. Here in this beautiful garden in the caving of rocks; that wide-spreading Turkish oak was brought hither, they tell me, by a Crusader; the old manor-house across the lawn, with a magnolia reaching up to its clustered tiles, with its hanging porch above the garden-door, with its long windows catching the sunlight, is beautiful—and yet haunted. It is all haunted. It is haunted by the absence of children. Where are the children of this English home? Why have they been driven out? The place is a symbol. All the love which made it a home seems now to be weeping. I should like to be quiet, or that I might hear more certainly the sound of that weeping. Perhaps if I waited the weeping would cease and the past return—a ghost-child wave to me from a window, or a girl's voice singing a seventeenth century song, float out to the garden from one of those panelled rooms, or a mother come to the door kissing the cheek of a baby held in her arms.

This house which was once a home and is now only a house, stands in its silent garden as a reproach to humanity, as a symbol of War. It asks, "Where are my children?"

"You had better put on a linen coat," says my guide.

Very well; but it makes me feel like Bernard Partridge's picture of H. G. Wells in a surprise. I told my hands in front of me, and follow my guide, like a nervous curate.

IN THE OPERATING ROOM.  
The operating-room is full of light. It is spacious and uncluttered. The smell of drugs is not oppressive. A little group of quiet people are gathered in the centre. I notice two nurses standing perfectly still. Just beyond these women are three or four men, masked and gloved. I am introduced to Major Gillies, who bows to me and then turns to his patient.

The patient is sitting up on the operating table. He is naked to the waist, and the whole of his flesh is painted a reddish yellow with iodine. It is only by an effort that I can bring myself to look at his face. What I see I dare not describe. I hear one of the greatest surgeons in England whisper to a doctor at my side, "Did you ever see an anesthetic more perfectly administered?" They are raptured by the perfection of the patient's repose. I can see that the patient is a man, and I can see that once upon a time this man had a face; but I am thinking not of the anesthetist, not even of the damnable wickedness of war; only how long I shall be able to stand looking at this dreadful creature who is still a man.

Major Gillies is about to operate. The patient's position is not quite suitable. He puts a yellow gloved hand on the patient's yellow shoulder and touches him. The effect upon me is like a shock. What was something like a man, a shock of sudden to be a figure stuffed with straw. The figure flops to one side, soulless, boneless.

"You understand what we are going to do?"  
I shake my head.  
Major Gillies points with his knife to the man's chest. There, faintly marked on the reddish-yellow flesh, as it were with this pencil stroke, is the shape of a face. "These spots here on the chest, this is where the nose will be, and here you see the mouth we shall give him." Good God, it seizes me to the bone that pencilled face on the man's chest, like a mark, and above that pencilled face on the chest, the old blasted and shattered face that a few days ago had the beauty and freshness of youth; why do surgeons speak of these things as a landscape gardener of his plans?

Who would have dreamed that the man, a year ago the richest monarch in the world, would ever feel the pinch of poverty? Yet the man comes from Tobolsk that his late Majesty (who has not escaped after all) "is temporarily inconvenienced by the non-arrival of cash." The probability is that Lenin has conspired to the Imperial coffers, he has already "distributed" the Imperial estates.

Someone whispers to me: "You see those little swellings on the shoulder? Those are bits of bones which have been taken from the man's ribs and placed there to form the cartilage of the nose. What is going to happen to this? The whole face of the chest, when everything is ready, will be lifted up and placed over the disfigured face; the nose will be built up with the cartilage taken from the ribs; it will be lined with the real living skin; the tissue, fed naturally by blood, will grow in its new place like a graft, and then all scars will be removed. The man's face will be as natural and real a face as any in the world."  
"You will, I am sure, how long I can stand it. But how hot it is now, how suffocating!"  
There is silence now. The knife goes to work. The miracle has actually begun. I glance at the nurses; they are like statues. I watch the dresser as he follows the surgeon's knife. I am looking below the skin, seeing behind the beautiful covering of man's wonderful but mortal body. I begin to feel. How hot it is! My mouth is dry. Yes, it is wonderful, most wonderful, this science of surgery. A miracle, but I can't stand it. Let me get out. What a disturbance I should make dropping down in my surprise. Have I not the strength to walk across the room? Yes, if I go now. Now, now, as quietly as I can.

Outside the theatre I am shown photographs. He who shows them to me, a lawyer who has volunteered to leave as registrar, is enthusiastic in a depressing manner. "Oh, yes," he keeps saying, "we are getting on, getting on, science isn't doing so badly; look at this photograph—not so bad, is it? No, not so bad; oh, yes, we are getting on—getting on."

It is easier, with my surplus of smoking, a cigarette, by an open window, thus to follow the wonders of surgery. What photographs these are! Mr. Derwent Wood, the most imaginative of our English sculptors, in the early days of the war made masks for disfigured soldiers, so wonderful that across a room they looked natural. But now surgery is its own sculptor. A revolution has come. A new face is grafted on, and grows there, and becomes a real face—not a mask that hides horror. I am shown photographs so repulsive that they could not be published. A splash of lead in the centre of a boy's face turns it to a caricature; so inconceivably laughable that you gasp and shudder. But these masks that hide horror, I am shown photographs of the Queen's Hospital at Sidcup, look at the last photographs of them before they go back again to the trenches. They are as handsome and smiling as any youth in the world. Those new faces are as real as your face, unscarred, unmarked, lovable, beautiful. And in many cases, only six months separate the one photograph from the other. "Oh yes, we are getting on—not so bad, not so bad."

I begin to understand the symbolism of this place. The old manor-house is the domestic life of a free people, for which our sons fight at the risk of death and disfigurement. War is the calamity of man's unreason which has emptied house and garden of its children. The surgeons represent one of the hands of Science, which out of destruction wrought by the other hand is building up again the face of life. The cheerfulness of everyone is the unconquerable soul of man.

Wherever I go in this beautiful garden I find men with bandaged faces, or men whose faces have been mended. They are perfectly happy. They are laughing and joking. You find them playing billiards. You see them reading and smoking. They look up at us as we pass and salute my companion. Then they turn to their games.

At the beginning of the war many of those who were disfigured destroyed themselves. They could not face their womenfolk. But whatever damage man may do on this earth, sooner or later he repairs it. Let us cling to that faith. When the war is over children will come back and play in the garden of this old manor-house, while Science busy elsewhere will be inventing fresh means for destruction. But always the children will come back for Science has two hands, the one of unreason with which she destroys our peace, the other of reason with which she repairs it.

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